

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for maintaining the indication of allowability as to claims 4, 15, 19, 21-29, 37, 39, 40 and 41.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 6, 8-14, 17-18, 35 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,119,913 to Adams et al., (hereinafter “Adams”).

In response, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 15, as well as intervening claims 6, 9 and 14. Consequently, claims 6, 9 and 14 have been canceled. The features of intervening claims 8 and 10 have not been added to claim 1 as Applicants respectfully submit that such features are not necessary to patentably distinguish claim 1 over the cited reference. Furthermore, the dependent claims, where necessary, have been amended to change their dependency. Claim 1 has been further amended to remove amendments made thereto after the indication of allowability was first made by the Examiner (in the Official Action dated January 13, 2006).

Furthermore, allowable claims 37 and 39 have been amended to include the features of their base claim, 1. The features of claim 1 added to claims 37 and 37 do not include the amendments made thereto after the indication of allowability was first made by the Examiner (in the Official Action dated January 13, 2006).

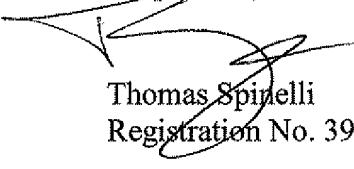
Lastly, claim 38 has been canceled.

Furthermore, new claims 42-44 have been added to further define the patentable invention. New claims 42-44 are fully supported in the original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the addition of new claims 42-

44. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 42-44 are at least allowable as depending upon an allowable base claim (37).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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